IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

Claims 1-105 (canceled)

106. (currently amended) A method of diagnosing in an individual a recent exposure to *M. tuberculosis*, said method comprising:

(a)   providing a T cell-containing sample from said individual;

(b)   contacting ~~separate~~ different aliquots of said sample separately with antigen compositions comprising either whole ESAT-6, or peptide epitopes derived from ESAT-6, in an ELISPOT assay in order to determine the frequency of antigen-responsive T cells which have been induced to secrete a cytokine; and

(c)   evaluating ~~whether,~~ the responsive T cells in each separate assay, ~~there was a positive response;~~ wherein a positive response using whole ESAT-6 and a negative response using peptide epitopes indicates that the individual has recently been exposed to *M. tuberculosis*.

107. (previously presented) A method according to claim 106, wherein said peptide epitopes are 8 to 29 amino acids in length.

108. (previously presented) A method according to claim 106, wherein a pool of at least four different peptide epitopes is employed.

109. (currently amended) A method according to claim [[106]] 107, wherein said peptide epitopes represent all possible peptide epitopes derived from ESAT-6.

110. (previously presented) A method according to claim 106, wherein antigen presenting cells are present in said sample.

111. (currently amended) A method according to claim 106, wherein said peptide epitopes are selected from the group consisting of:

1432476

Sequence	
M T E Q Q W N F A G I E A A A	(SEQ. ID NO: 1),
W N F A G I E A A A S A I Q G	(SEQ. ID NO: 2),
I E A A A S A I Q G N V T S I	(SEQ. ID NO: 3),
S A I Q G N V T S I H S L L D	(SEQ. ID. NO: 4),
N V T S I H S L L D E G K Q S	(SEQ. ID. NO: 5),
H S L L D E G K Q S L T K L A	(SEQ. ID NO: 6),
E G K Q S L T K L A A A W G G	(SEQ. ID NO: 7),
L T K L A A A W G G S G S E A	(SEQ. ID NO: 8),
A A W G G S G S E A Y Q G V Q	(SEQ. ID. NO: 9),
S G S E A Y Q G V Q Q K W D A	(SEQ. ID. NO: 10),
Y Q G V Q Q K W D A T A T E L	(SEQ. ID. NO: 11),
Q K W D A T A T E L N N A L Q	(SEQ. ID. NO: 12),
T A T E L N N A L Q N L A R T	(SEQ. ID. NO: 13),
N N A L Q N L A R T I S E A G	(SEQ. ID. NO: 14),
N L A R T I S E A G Q A M A S	(SEQ. ID. NO: 15),
I S E A G Q A M A S T E G N V	(SEQ. ID. NO: 16), and
Q A M A S T E G N V T G M F A	(SEQ. ID. NO: 17). [[,]]

112. (withdrawn) A kit for carrying out the method of claim 106, the kit comprising (i) whole ESAT-6 and (ii) peptide epitopes derived from ESAT-6, together with instructions for performing an ELISPOT assay.

113. (withdrawn) A kit of claim 112, wherein said peptide epitopes are 8 to 29 amino acids in length.

114. (withdrawn) A kit of claim 112, wherein there are at least four different peptide epitopes.

115. (withdrawn/currently amended) A kit of claim [[112]] 113, wherein said peptide epitopes represent all possible peptide epitopes derived from ESAT-6.

- 3 -